

Quarantine Alert

The information here covers AQIS quarantine requirements only and is current on the date of transmission but may change without notice. AQIS makes no warranties or representations with respect to the accuracy or completeness of that information and will bear no liability with respect to that information. Importers must satisfy quarantine concerns and comply with quarantine conditions applicable at the time of entry. The Commonwealth through AQIS is not liable for any costs arising from or associated with decisions of importers to import based on conditions presented here which are not current at the time of importation. It is the importer's responsibility to verify the accuracy and completeness of the information at the time of importation.

It is the importer's responsibility to identify and to ensure it has complied with, all requirements of any other regulatory and advisory bodies prior to and after importation including the Australian Customs Service, Therapeutic Goods Administration, Department of the Environment and Heritage, Australian Pesticides & Veterinary Medicines Authority and any State agencies such as Departments of Agriculture and Health and Environmental Protection authorities.

Importers should note that this list is not exhaustive. Importers should also note that all foods imported into Australia must comply with the provisions of the Imported Food Control Act 1992, an Act which is administered by AQIS.

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Update on proposed changes to AQIS import requirements for solid wood packaging material and dunnage compliant with ISPM 15: Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade.

Update:

The Australian date for the implementation of ISPM 15 will not be 1 July 2004 as previously indicated. The revised date will be closer to the end of 2004 and a firm implementation date will be advised as soon as possible.

Background:

The Interim Commission on Phytosanitary Measures (ICPM) operating under the International Plant Protection Convention (IPPC) has endorsed a new international standard: *International Standards for Phytosanitary Measures Publication No. 15 - Guidelines for Regulating Wood Packaging Material in International Trade* (ISPM 15). The full text of ISPM 15 is available in English at:

http://www.ippc.int/servlet/BinaryDownloaderServlet/ISPM_15_English.pdf?filename=1055161712885_ISPM15_e.pdf

ISPM 15 describes phytosanitary measures to reduce the risk of introduction and/or spread of quarantine pests associated with wood packaging material (including dunnage) made of coniferous and non-coniferous wood that is in use in international trade.

Proposed Australian import conditions after implementation of ISPM 15:

Australia has regulated standards for wood packaging material and dunnage for many years, and, intends to incorporate the provisions of ISPM 15 into Australia's existing measures for wood packaging and dunnage. In addition to the ISPM 15 measures implemented, Australia will maintain the following existing requirements:

. freedom from bark; and

. methyl bromide fumigation at 48 grams per cubic metre for 24 hours (not 16 hours) and the timber at time of treatment being no greater than 200mm in diameter in the smallest plane; and

. where packaging is imported in containerised cargo it must be accompanied by a packing declaration stating compliance with Australian requirements.

As a member of the World Trade Organisation (WTO), Australia proposes to implement ISPM 15 towards the end of 2004. Australia's existing import conditions and co-regulatory arrangements for solid wood packaging material and dunnage will continue to be offered in parallel to the proposed import conditions of ISPM 15. Importers will be able to elect which option to use. This approach will ensure continued market access to Australia for countries that are not in a position to implement ISPM 15.

AQIS intends to develop and publish an information package on the proposed changes to clearance mechanisms for wood packaging and dunnage.

Non-compliant solid wood packaging and dunnage:

Non-compliant solid wood packaging and dunnage may be treated on arrival, destroyed or re-exported at the importer's expense. In addition, after the ISPM 15 implementation date, all solid wood packaging material and dunnage imported into Australia, whether ISPM 15 compliant or imported under the existing arrangements, will be subject to surveillance.

For general inquiries contact Heidi Mathews, AQIS Import Clearance, PH 02 6272 5574, FAX 02 6272 5888 or for technical inquiries regarding the standard contact Doug Walsh PH 02 6272 4989.

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For more information contact the [ICON administrator](#)
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